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User Guide to Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales

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1 Introduction to drug misuse statistics

The annual statistical release 'Drug Misuse Declared' examines the extent and trends in illicit drug use among a nationally representative sample of 16 to 59 year olds resident in households in England and Wales. The latest release is based on results from the 2011/12 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW, formerly the British Crime Survey) including trends since the 1996 survey (see http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/crime-research/drugs-misuse-dec-1112/).

As a household survey, the CSEW provides a good and robust way to measure general population prevalence of drug use amongst users contained within the household population. However, estimates from the CSEW must be considered within the context of survey methodology and the operational challenges of obtaining information from respondents on self-declared drug use.

The User Guide to Drug Misuse Declared is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production and presentation of the drug misuse statistics.

While responsibility for the Crime Survey for England and Wales transferred to the Office for National Statistics on 1 April 2012, the Home Office has retained responsibility for analysis and publication of this Drugs Misuse Declared publication.

1.1 THE CSEW AS A SURVEY OF DRUG USE

The drug misuse estimates from the CSEW are produced from responses to a self-completion module of the survey that is completed at the end of the face-to-face interview (which mainly covers questions on experiences of crime victimisation and perceptions of crime-related issues). Respondents generally complete the drugs module on the interviewer's laptop by themselves (CASI, computer-assisted self-interviewing) but on occasion respondents may elect for the interviewer to continue administering the questions. When complete, answers are encrypted and cannot be retrieved by the interviewer. The self-completion module is restricted to those respondents aged 16 to 59 years (the decision to exclude those aged 60 and over was largely an economy measure, reflecting their very low prevalence rates for the use of illicit drugs). The CSEW is able to provide trends over time because the survey has included a comparable self-report module of questions on illicit drug use since the 1996 survey.

CSEW estimates are based on a sample of the population which is considered large for a government household survey. The survey has a high response rate: 75 per cent to the main survey and 92 per cent of those who were eligible for the self-completion module (giving a true response rate of 69%). Data are weighted to ensure figures reflect the age and sex distribution of the population under study. Unless otherwise specified, any reported changes over time in CSEW drug use estimates are statistically significant (see Section 3).

The CSEW provides estimates of the prevalence of use of an illicit drug ever (that is, at least once in a lifetime), at least once in the last year (that is, the year prior to interview) and at least once in the last month (the month prior to interview). Use of drugs in the last year is deemed to be the best indicator to measure trends in recent drug use. Estimates in the release are based on respondents' use of drugs in the last year unless specified otherwise.

The figures in the latest release are based on interviews conducted between April 2011 and March 2012. The reference period for last year drug use (where respondents are asked about their drug use in the 12 months prior to interview) will range from April 2010 for the earliest interviews to March 2012 for the latest interviews.

Development of the CSEW questionnaire takes place on an annual basis and aims to reflect emerging issues. Questions about use of mephedrone, simultaneous drug use, the source and location when

obtaining drugs and attitudes to the acceptability of taking certain drugs and using alcohol were added to the 2010/11 CSEW questionnaire. In 2011/12 a question on the ease, or perceived ease, of obtaining illegal drugs was added. Amendments to the 2012/13 questionnaire include asking about mephedrone use ever and in the last month (in addition to the last year), use of salvia or nitrous oxide in the last year, and perceptions of safety around certain behaviours (taking heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, cannabis and getting drunk).

Historically, the CSEW has been restricted to those aged 16 or over resident in households. While the survey was extended in January 2009 to include children (aged 10 to 15), the CSEW children's survey includes only a few questions on the use of cannabis. This is because there is already an established National Statistics series giving trends on the prevalence and nature of drug use among 11 to 15 year olds which is based on the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Survey among young people in England.

Latest figures for 2011 (see http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd11fullreport) are published simultaneously with the latest Drug Misuse Declared release as the two publications together provide an overall picture of drug use.

1.2 LIMITATIONS OF THE CSEW AS A SURVEY OF DRUG USE

As a household survey, the CSEW provides an effective measure of the more commonly used drugs for which the majority of users are contained within the household population. However, the CSEW does not cover some small groups, potentially important given that they may have relatively high rates of drug use: notably the homeless and those living in certain institutions such as prisons. Nor, in practice, will any household survey necessarily reach those problematic drug users whose lives are so busy or chaotic that they are hardly ever at home or are unable to take part in an interview.

As a result, the CSEW is likely to underestimate the overall use of drugs such as opiates and crack cocaine and possibly also frequent cocaine powder users, where the majority of users are concentrated within small sub-sections of the population not covered or reached by the survey. However, this is likely to have only a marginal impact on overall estimates of drug use within the household population. National and regional estimates of the prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use are published by the National Treatment Agency: latest available figures for 2009/10 are online at http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/prevalencestats2009-10.pdf.

Issues exist around willingness to report illicit drug use, even in a confidential manner. An unknown proportion of respondents may not report their behaviour honestly; hence estimates of prevalence in this bulletin may be considered lower estimates of the true level of illicit drug use within the general population, even for more commonly used drugs. In tracking changes in the level of drug use through the CSEW, arguably what matters most is that, irrespective of any strengths or weaknesses relating to coverage or response to the survey, it is a consistent instrument deployed in the same manner for each round of the survey. Hence, even if drug use estimates are lower than the true value, comparisons over time remain valid assuming that unwillingness to report has remained at a similar level over time.

By their very nature, self-report estimates of drug use within a general population sample survey, such as the CSEW, are a measurement of what respondents intended, or believed, they had taken. In reality, particularly with changes in purity of drugs such as powder cocaine, those who have taken illicit drugs will not always be sure about what they have taken. Estimates from the CSEW must necessarily sit alongside other data sources in providing a comprehensive understanding of illicit drug use in England and Wales.

1.3 RELIABILITY OF CSEW ILLICIT DRUG USE ESTIMATES

Collecting information by using a self-completion methodology with the CSEW increases the reliability of estimates of a sensitive nature, such as illicit drug use, since it allows respondents to feel more at ease due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey.

As a validity check, the survey asks about use of Semeron, a fictional drug, which identifies those who may not be honest about their experiences of using illicit drugs; and the small number of respondents who reported use of it were excluded from any analyses.

The CSEW provides estimates of the prevalence of use of an illicit drug ever (that is, at least once in a lifetime), at least once in the last year (that is, the year prior to interview) and at least once in the last month (the month prior to interview). 'Use of a drug ever' indicates the percentage of people who have taken one or more drugs in their lifetime; however, it says little about the patterns of current drug use. Some respondents will have taken these drugs ten or 20 years ago, others in the last month. 'Use in the last month' is a good indicator of very recent drug use but it is more subject to variation due to the small number of last month users. For these reasons, 'use of drugs in the last year' is deemed to be the best indicator available to measure trends of recent drug use and is used throughout the release.

Year-on-year prevalence changes are presented using the last year drug use measure but these need to be interpreted with care and consideration of the following issues.

- While CSEW estimates are based on a large sample of the population, it should be recognised that levels of drug use are relatively low so that even when a large section of the population is sampled the number of users picked up by the survey can be relatively small. Figures and comparisons published in the release are considered to be robust. Where there are insufficient drug users in the sample to enable robust analysis, this has been indicated in the tables that appear in this bulletin.
- Large sample sizes increase the reliability of estimates for rare acts such as consumption of Class A drugs; however, the range of variability will still be quite large for very rare acts, such as heroin use, because of sampling variability; hence, figures will be liable to fluctuation from year to year.
- Comparisons have been made with 1996 figures (the start of the CSEW self-report drug use collection) to provide trends, but attention should also be paid to year-on-year changes in the intervening period in order to fully appreciate the patterns of drug use over time.
- Evidence suggests that use of some types of drug e.g. khat is concentrated in individuals of a specific national origin. CSEW general population estimates may not adequately capture levels of the use of such drugs within such a small subgroup of the population. This is in contrast to usage of other types of drugs where evidence suggests that their use is not restricted to small subgroups within the population e.g. cannabis.

Between the 2001/02 and 2008/09 CSEW the survey included a boost sample of young adults in order to improve the accuracy of illicit drug use estimates among 16 to 24 year olds. Given the increase in the CSEW sample size since 2004/05, drug use estimates among young people can be estimated to an acceptable standard of precision using data from the core sample only.

2 Classification of drugs

2.1 CLASSIFICATION OF DRUGS UNDER THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 classifies controlled drugs into three categories (Classes A, B and C) according to the harm that they cause, with Class A drugs considered to be the most harmful. This table displays the drugs that respondents were asked about in the 2011/12 CSEW and their current classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Drugs included in the main CSEW trend measures and their classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act (as at July 2012)

Classification	*Drug*
Class A	Powder cocaine Crack cocaine Ecstasy LSD Magic mushrooms Heroin Methadone Methamphetamine
Class A/B	Amphetamines
Class B	Cannabis (since January 2009; due to reclassification)
Class B/C	Tranquillisers
Class C	Anabolic steroids Ketamine (since April 2006)
Not classified	Amyl nitrite

Following the Drugs Act 2005, raw magic mushrooms were classified as a Class A drug in July 2005. Prior to this change in the law, only prepared (such as dried or stewed) magic mushrooms were classified as Class A drugs. However, the CSEW does not distinguish between the different preparations of this drug, so the trend in magic mushroom and Class A drug use presented here has not been affected by the change in the law.

Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (when prepared for injection) or Class B (in powdered form). Since CSEW questions do not distinguish between the forms of the drug taken, amphetamine use has not been included in estimates of overall Class A drug use in this report. The CSEW included a question on methamphetamine (which is classified as Class A) for the first time in 2008/09.

Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (such as barbiturates) or Class C (such as benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used.

Cannabis was reclassified from a Class B to a Class C drug in January 2004. However, the Government decided to reclassify cannabis as a Class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act with effect from January 2009. Reclassification does not affect CSEW estimates, but cannabis is presented as a Class B drug within CSEW reports.

The category ‘not classified’ indicates that possession of these substances is not illegal but it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

The 2006/07 CSEW was the first year that questions on ketamine were included in the survey; ketamine use is reported according to its classification (Class C).

The CSEW measures psychoactive drugs which have been classified under the Act recently: mephedrone, GBL/GHB, BZP, Spice and other cannabinoids (questions on last year use of the then legal substances were added to the CSEW in October 2009).

Subsequently, legislation was passed to control these substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act (December 2009). **Spice** is a brand name of, and generic slang for, a herbal mixture laced with synthetic cannabinoids; there are a number of products marketed under the 'Spice' brand. **BZP** (Benzylpiperazine) is a drug with euphoric and stimulant properties with effects similar to those produced by amphetamines. **GHB** (gamma-Hydroxybutyrate, an intoxicant and a date rape drug) has been controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act as a Class C drug since 2003. **GBL** (gamma-Butyrolactone) is not active in its own right but is a substance that is converted to GHB by enzymes found in the blood and has a faster onset of effects than GHB itself. The question on the CSEW includes both GBL and GHB due to the similarity of these drugs and the belief that respondents may not know/be able to tell the difference in which was being used.

These estimates are not currently presented within the overall extent of CSEW drug misuse as questions are only asked about last year use. In the 2012/13 questionnaire use of mephedrone ever, in the last year and in the last month has been asked about so this drug can be included in the main trends from 2013.

2.2 COMPOSITE DRUG USE MEASURES ON THE CSEW

Within Home Office drug misuse publications, composite variables which amalgamate use of individual drugs are presented; the individual drug use variables that they include are outlined below.

Composite drug use variables, 2011/12 CSEW

Composite variable	*Individual drug use variables included*
Any cocaine	Powder cocaine, Crack cocaine
Hallucinogens	LSD, Magic mushrooms
Opiates	Heroin, Methadone
Any amphetamine	Amphetamine, Methamphetamine
Any Class A drug	Cocaine powder, Crack cocaine, Ecstasy, Heroin, LSD, Magic mushrooms, Methadone, Methamphetamine
Any stimulant drug	Powder cocaine, Crack cocaine, Ecstasy, Amphetamine, Amyl nitrite, Methamphetamine
Any drug	Amphetamines, Amyl nitrite, Anabolic steroids, Cannabis, Powder cocaine, Crack cocaine, Ecstasy, Heroin, Ketamine, LSD, Magic mushrooms, Methadone, Methamphetamine, Tranquillisers, unknown pills or powders, something unknown smoked, any other drug

Individual types of drugs which are specifically asked about in the CSEW are presented in all tables in the substantive part of the release. In addition to these named drugs, respondents are also asked whether they have taken something else in the same time period, that is: pills or powders (not prescribed by a doctor) when you didn't know what they were; smoked something (excluding tobacco) when you didn't know what it was; and, taken anything else that you knew or thought was a drug (not prescribed by a doctor).

As a change to the 2010/11 CSEW questionnaire respondents were no longer asked whether they had used glues or solvents. Glue use, therefore, has not been included since the 2010/11 measure of any illicit drug use and estimates for the use of glues are not reported within the current release. Analysis of the impact on the CSEW any illicit drug measure and trend in this measure over time showed that removal of glue from the composite measure of any illicit drug use had no overall important impact on this measure.

Drugs are mainly presented in this report by classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act; however, developing a new composite group ('Any stimulant drug') that includes drugs across the legal classification provides an additional useful measure. These types of drugs are used for their stimulant properties and are more likely to be used interchangeably by the same people at similar times and in similar settings. Amphetamines and all forms of cocaine are well known for their stimulant properties, ecstasy is used by clubbers, and amyl nitrite ('poppers') deliver a short, sharp high, again often used in clubs.

Note that caution should be taken in the interpretation of trends in the composite category. Taking Class A drug use as an example, of the people who took Class A drugs in the last year there will be many cases of poly drug use. Some people may have taken all of the Class A drugs, others a combination and some just one. Therefore, if there is an increase in the use of cocaine powder, for instance, there may not necessarily be an increase in the use of Class A drugs. The increase in the use of cocaine powder could just be users switching from one drug to another. It is only when there is a significant increase in 'new' Class A drug users that a change in use of Class A drugs overall will occur. It is also, of course, possible that users of drugs switch between drugs of different classes.

3 Statistical conventions and methods

3.1 CONFIDENCE INTERVALS AND STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Estimates from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) are based on a representative sample of the population of England and Wales aged 16 or over each year; the sample is a small-scale representation of the population from which it is drawn.

Any sample survey may produce estimates that differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed. It is, however, possible to calculate a range of values around an estimate, known as the confidence interval (also referred to as margin of error) of the estimate. At the 95 per cent confidence level, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that the confidence interval would contain the true population value 95 times out of 100. This can be thought of as a one in 20 chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95 per cent confidence interval calculated for the survey estimate.

Because of this variation, changes in estimates between survey years or between population subgroups may occur by chance. In other words, the change may simply be due to which adults were randomly selected for interview.

We are able to measure whether this is likely to be the case using standard statistical tests and conclude whether differences are likely to be due to chance or represent a real difference. Only increases or decreases that are statistically significant at the five per cent level (and are therefore likely to be real) are described as changes within the main bulletin and in the tables and figures these are identified by asterisks.

Confidence intervals on the CSEW are based on complex standard errors (CSEs) around estimates, which reflect the stratified and semi-clustered design of the survey and are calculated using the SPSS Complex Sample Module (www.spss.com). Where standard errors are calculated without the complex element, a design effect of 1.2 is applied to the confidence interval and significance testing to allow for the fact that the survey design is not a simple random sample.

3.2 WEIGHTING DATA

Two types of weighting are used to ensure the representativeness of the CSEW sample. First, the raw data are weighted to compensate for unequal probabilities of selection. These include: the individual's chance of participation being inversely proportional to the number of adults living in the household; the over-sampling of smaller police force areas; and the selection of multi-household addresses. Second, calibration weighting is used to adjust for differential non-response. All CSEW percentages and rates presented in the figures and tables in the annual crime statistics publication are based on weighted data.

Calibration weighting

A review of the CSEW by survey methodology experts at the Office for National Statistics and the National Centre for Social Research recommended that the calibration weighting method be adopted (The British Crime Survey: A Review of Methodology, Lynn and Elliot, 2000, http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110218135832/http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/bcs-methodology-review-2000.pdf). The weighting is designed to make adjustments for known differentials in response rates between different regions and different age by sex subgroups and also households with different age and sex composition. For example, a household containing a man aged 24 living alone may be less likely to respond to the survey than a household containing a man aged 24 living with a partner and a child. The procedure therefore gives different weights to different household types based on their age/sex composition in such a way that the weighted distribution of individuals in

the responding households matches the known distribution in the population as a whole and also matches the known distribution of the regional population.

The weights are generated using an algorithm that minimises the differences between the weights implied by sampling and the final weights subject to the weighted data meeting the population controls. They are based on calibrating on population figures provided by the Labour Force Survey (LFS) from ONS. Calibration weights were applied from the 1996 CSEW onwards using CALMAR (a SAS-based macro); since 2006/07 the CSEW has used g-Calib within a new SPSS-based data-processing system (the weights produced by g-Calib are the same as those from CALMAR).

3.3 POPULATION ESTIMATES

The drug misuse estimates from the CSEW use population estimates for two purposes: in calibration weighting (see above) and in calculating the estimates of numbers of drug users.

Calibration weighting uses data from the Labour Force Survey (LFS), which is weighted according to the latest population estimates issued by ONS.

For the calculation of estimates of numbers of drug users from the CSEW rates of drug use are multiplied by estimates of the population aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales.

- For CSEW years up to and including 2009/10, mid-year population estimates were used.
- For 2010/11, 2008-based mid-year population projections were used.
- For 2011/12, 2010-based mid-year population projections were used.

For the 2011/12 publication, CSEW estimates of drug misuse from 2010/11 have been revised to bring them into line with the latest population estimates available.

All population and household estimates and projections used in the CSEW are unrounded.

3.4 LOGISTIC REGRESSION

Logistic regression is a multivariate statistical technique that predicts the outcome of a dependent variable, from a set of independent variables (such as personal, household, area or behavioural characteristics associated with a CSEW respondent). The dependent variable must have only two possible outcomes; for example, logistic regression can model the risk of a person taking drugs or not. The technique allows the assessment of which of the independent variables are statistically related to the dependent variable when the influence of all other variables in the model is taken into account.

The approach using CSEW data is based on an iterative process, which relies on a theoretical rationale of how the independent variables might affect the outcome. This process enables evaluation of the impact of certain types of variables on the outcome, for example, if the risk of being a victim of crime is due to personal characteristics rather than area-based factors.

Each of the iterations are based on logistic regressions using the ‘Enter’ method; the final model is also run using a ‘Forward stepwise’ regression to evaluate the strength of the contribution that each variable makes to that model. The ‘-2 log likelihood’ statistic (minus two times the log of the likelihood, also known as the ‘scaled deviance’) of each model is presented as a measure indicating how much of the outcome remains unexplained by the independent variables. The fit of each model is compared using a likelihood-ratio test to see if the subsequent iteration predicts the outcome significantly better (this is the case when the difference of the ‘-2 log likelihoods’ of both models exceeds a critical value).

The Nagelkerke R square statistic is presented as a measure indicating how much the independent variables predict the dependent variable. The model which has the highest value is the model that is considered to have the best fit. It can only be used to compare models predicting the same dependent variable in the same dataset.

The odds of an event (e.g. taking illicit drugs) are calculated as the ratio of the probabilities of occurrence and non-occurrence of the event. Logistic regression describes the impact of independent variables by comparing the odds of a subgroup of interest with a fixed reference category set by the analyst; within a variable all other categories are compared with this reference category. The result is a measure describing the association between the two groups, which is termed the 'odds ratio'. To explain further, when the reference category within the variable 'sex' is defined as 'women' and the odds ratio within the model predicting risk of violence victimisation is three, this means the odds for becoming a victim of violence are three times higher for men compared with women.

However, odds ratios can be hard to interpret as they do not give any indication of the actual probabilities of certain outcomes for separate groups. Therefore, it is sometimes useful to translate the odds that are provided by the logistic regression model into 'probabilities'. The probability of an event can then be compared between groups. Within CSEW analysis the ratio between two groups can be described as relative risk, relative prevalence or relative likelihood.

3.5 CONVENTIONS USED IN FIGURES AND TABLES

The following conventions are used in the annual drug misuse statistics publication.

Table abbreviations

'0' indicates no response in that particular category or less than 0.5 per cent (this does not apply when percentages are presented to one decimal point).

'n/a' indicates that the question was not applicable or not asked in that particular year.

'-' indicates that data are not reported because the unweighted base is fewer than 50.

''** indicates for that the change is statistically significant at the five per cent level. Where an apparent change over time is not statistically significant this is noted in the text.

Unweighted base

All percentages and rates presented in the tables are based on data weighted to compensate for differential non response. Tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of people interviewed in the specified group.

Percentages

Row or column percentages may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Most tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of adults who have the attribute being discussed and the complementary percentage, to add to 100 per cent, is not shown.

A percentage may be quoted in the text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single category and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the tables.

'No answers' (missing values)

All analysis excludes don't know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

4 Classifications

4.1 AREA

ACORN

A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods (ACORN) was developed by CACI Ltd. (http://www.caci.co.uk/acorn-classification.aspx) and classifies households into one of 56 types according to demographic, employment and housing characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. ACORN is useful in determining the social environment in which households are located. The main five-group breakdowns are characterised as follows:

- Wealthy Achievers – wealthy executives, affluent older people and well-off families.
- Urban Prosperity – prosperous professionals, young urban professionals and students living in town and city areas.
- Comfortably Off – young couples, secure families, older couples living in the suburbs and pensioners.
- Moderate Means – Asian communities, post-industrial families and skilled manual workers.
- Hard Pressed – low-income families, residents in council areas, people living in high-rise and inner-city estates.

The ACORN classification is still available on the CSEW dataset but the National Statistics Output Area Classification (see OAC below) is now routinely used in demographic tables.

Indices of deprivation

Local area deprivation is measured in this release using employment deprivation domain of the English Indices of Deprivation 2010. There are seven domains of deprivation: income; employment; health and disability; education, skills and training; barriers to housing and services; living environment; and crime. There are a number of indicators of deprivation in each of these domains, such as level of unemployment and incapacity benefit claimants, which are combined into a single deprivation score for each local area on that domain.

In order to examine the relationship between drug misuse and deprivation, the local areas are ranked according to their scores on the employment deprivation domain. The 20 per cent of areas with the highest deprivation scores are identified as the most deprived areas on the employment deprivation domain and the 20 per cent of areas with the lowest deprivation scores are identified as the least deprived.

An Index of Multiple Deprivation is also available, which combines all seven separate domains into one index. The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 are the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government; further information is available at www.communities.gov.uk. Further information on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008 is available at www.wales.gov.uk.

Output Area Classification (OAC)

The 2001 Area Classification of OAs is used to group together geographic areas according to key characteristics common to the population in that grouping. These groupings are called clusters and are derived using 2001 population census data. The OAC is a classification created in collaboration between the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the University of Leeds.

The classification is freely available from ONS and other sources for all to use and complements commercially available classifications.

Further information and details about OAC can be found on the ONS website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/methodology_by_theme/area_classification/default.asp.

Physical disorder

This term is used in the CSEW to describe a measure based on the interviewer's assessment of the level of (a) vandalism, graffiti and deliberate damage to property; (b) rubbish and litter; and (c) homes in poor condition in the area. Using guidance, the interviewer has to make an assessment as to whether each of these problems is very common, fairly common, not very common or not at all common. For each, very and fairly common is scored as 1 and not very and not at all as 0. A scale is then constructed by summing the scores for each case. The scale ranges from 0 to 3, with high disorder areas being those with a score of 2 or 3.

Regions

Government Office Regions (GORs) were established across England in 1994. Reflecting a number of government departments, they aimed to work in partnership with local people and organisations in order to maximise prosperity and the quality of life within their area. In 1996 the Government Office Regions became the primary classification for the presentation of regional statistics. There are nine regions in England: North East; North West; Yorkshire and the Humber; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; London; South East; South West. Wales is not subdivided but listed alongside the England regions in UK-wide statistical comparisons. Government Offices were closed on 31 March 2011 and from 1 April 2011 the areas covered by the former GORs are referred to as 'regions' for statistical purposes.

Rural and urban areas

The analysis of crime in rural and urban areas is based on the ONS recommended method for categorising the 'level of rurality'. There are two approaches: the ONS Rural/Urban Definition and the Local Authority (LA) Classification; both were developed to produce a view of rural and urban areas from Government Statistics. Where data below the LA level are available the ONS Rural/Urban Definition must be used to produce rural and urban totals. Where LA level data are the lowest geographic data available then the LA Classification should be used. More detail is given below.

For CSEW analysis, the Rural/Urban Definition has been used, as CSEW data are collected below the Local Authority level. The Rural/Urban Definition, an official National Statistic, was introduced in 2004 and defines the rurality of Output Areas. Categories used to aggregate to rural or urban are as follows.

Rural areas are those classified as:

- Town and fringe – sparse.
- Village – sparse.
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings – sparse.
- Town and fringe – less sparse.
- Village – less sparse.
- Hamlet and isolated dwellings – less sparse.

Urban areas are those classified as:

- Urban – sparse.
- Urban – less sparse.

4.2 HOUSEHOLD

Household accommodation type

The CSEW uses this definition of the household's accommodation, based on the National Statistics harmonised classification (http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/harmonisation/secondary-concepts-and-questions/S6.pdf).

- House or bungalow: detached, semi-detached, terraced.
- Flat or maisonette: includes purpose-built block, non-purpose built (including bedsits) and all flats and maisonettes.
- Other accommodation types: includes caravans and mobile homes.

Household reference person (HRP)

For some topics it is necessary to select one person in the household to indicate the characteristics of the household more generally. Following the National Statistics harmonised classifications, the CSEW replaced head of household with household reference person (HRP) in 2001/02. The HRP is the member of the household in whose name the accommodation is owned or rented, or is otherwise responsible for the accommodation. Where this responsibility is joint within the household, the HRP is the person with the highest income. If incomes are equal, then the oldest person is the HRP.

Household structure

The classification of households in the CSEW is based on the number and combination of adults and children living within a household, divided into those where there is:

- one adult and one or more children (under 16). Note this does not necessarily denote a lone-parent family, as the adult may be a sibling or grandparent of the child;
- more than one adult with one or more children (under 16); and
- one or more adults with no children (under 16).

Household income

Total household income is the combined income of all members of the household. It includes income from all sources including earnings from employment and self-employment, pensions (both state and private), benefits and tax credits, interest from savings and investments, maintenance, student grants and rent payments received. Due to the nature of the question, over one-fifth of respondents gave insufficient information to classify their household income or declined to answer the question. Those cases with insufficient information may include respondents who did not know the income of other household members.

Tenure

The following definition of tenure is used by the CSEW based on the National Statistics harmonised classification:

- Owners: households who own their homes outright, or are buying with a mortgage (includes shared owners, who own part of the equity and pay part of the mortgage/rent).
- Social-rented sector tenants: households renting from a council, housing association or other social-rented sector.

- Rented privately: households privately renting unfurnished or furnished property. This includes tenants whose accommodation comes with their job, even if their landlord is a housing association or local authority.

4.3 PERSONAL

Alcohol consumption

The CSEW uses these questions to analyse frequency of alcohol consumption:

First, thinking about ALL kinds of alcoholic drink, how often have you had an alcoholic drink of any kind during the last 12 months?

- 1. Almost every day
- 2. 5 or 6 days a week
- 3. 3 or 4 days a week
- 4. Once or twice a week
- 5. Once or twice a month
- 6. Once every couple of months
- 7. Once or twice a year
- 8. Not at all in last 12 months
- 9. Do not drink alcohol at all
- 10. Don't want to answer

You've told us about what you have drunk over the last 12 months. However, what people drink can vary a lot over a year, so the next few questions are about just the LAST MONTH. How often have you had an alcoholic drink of any kind during the LAST MONTH?

- 1. Almost every day
- 2. 5 or 6 days a week
- 3. 3 or 4 days a week
- 4. Once or twice a week
- 5. Once or twice a month
- 6. Not at all in the last month
- 7. Don't want to answer

Responses to these questions were combined to provide the summary variable for frequency of alcohol consumption. Those who said they drank less than once or twice a month, or not at all, were classified as having 'Not a drink in the last month'. Otherwise respondents were classified according to how often they had had an alcoholic drink of any kind in the last month (those who said they did not want to answer at either question were excluded from the analysis).

Black and Minority Ethnic groups/ethnicity

CSEW respondents are asked to make a choice from a card to identify their ethnic background using the standard 2001 Census classification (http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/classifications/archived/ethnic-interim/index.html). Due to small sample sizes, it is necessary to collapse this classification into either a five-fold classification, i.e. White, Black, Asian, Mixed and

Chinese or Other or to a simpler two-fold White and Non-White classification, based on the National Statistics harmonised classification.

Employment status

The CSEW uses the following categories for employment status, which are based on the National Statistics harmonised classification but include further breakdowns for those in the 'economically inactive' category.

- In employment: includes people doing paid work in the last week; working on a government-supported training scheme; or doing unpaid work for own/family business.
- Unemployed: actively seeking work or waiting to take up work.
- Economically inactive: those who are retired; going to school or college full-time; looking after home/family; are temporarily or permanently sick; or doing something else.

Base sizes for the student categories of employment status differ from those in the occupational classification (see Occupation below). Economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment or are in other ways economically active. Full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding.

Experience of crime

The CSEW asks questions relating to the respondent's and their household's experience of crime in the last year. In the drug statistics release, being a victim of crime in the last year is based on self-report data relating to being a victim of any crime measured by the CSEW (for more information, see the User Guide to Crime Statistics for England and Wales, http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/taxonomy/index.html?nscl=Crime+in+England+and+Wales).

Marital status

The CSEW uses the following categories for marital status, which are based on the National Statistics harmonised classification:

- Married – includes same sex civil partnerships.
- Cohabiting.
- Single.
- Separated.
- Divorced.
- Widowed.

Nightclub visits

The CSEW uses this question to analyse illicit drug use by nightclub visits in the past month:

Still thinking about the last month, how many times did you visit a nightclub or disco?

- 1. None
- 2. Between 1 and 3 times (Less than once a week)
- 3. Between 4 and 8 times (Once to twice a week)
- 4. Between 9 and 12 times (About 3 times a week)

- 5. More than 12 times (Almost every day)

Occupation (NS-SEC)

The National Statistics Socio-economic Classification (NS-SEC) is an occupationally based classification, but provides coverage of the whole adult population. The NS-SEC aims to differentiate positions within labour markets and production units in terms of their typical 'employment relations'.

More information about NS-SEC can be found on the National Statistics website, see: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/default.asp.

CSEW analysis is based on the three analytic classes provided within NS-SEC (http://www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/downloads/NS-SEC_User.pdf) but also describes full-time students in a separate category (usually included within the 'Not classified' category). Base sizes for the student categories differ in NS-SEC from those in the economic classification (see Employment status above) as economically inactive students exclude those who are in employment, or in other ways economically active, but full-time students are recognised as such within the occupational coding of NS-SEC.

Perceptions measured by the CSEW

The CSEW has long-standing questions asking respondents about perceptions of problems with different types of anti-social behaviour in their local area.

- Abandoned or burnt-out cars.
- Noisy neighbours or loud parties.
- People being drunk or rowdy in public places.
- People using or dealing drugs.
- Rubbish or litter lying around.
- Teenagers hanging around on the streets.
- Vandalism, graffiti, and other deliberate damage to property.

Measures of perceptions of each of these seven types of behaviours (for example, perceptions of people using or dealing drugs) are based on the proportion of CSEW respondents who perceive that particular behaviour to be a very or fairly big problem in their local area.

Pub or bar visits

The CSEW uses this question to analyse illicit drug use by pub or bar visits in the past month:

In the last month, how many times did you visit a pub or bar in the evening?

- 1. None
- 2. Between 1 and 3 times (Less than once a week)
- 3. Between 4 and 8 times (Once to twice a week)
- 4. Between 9 and 12 times (About 3 times a week)
- 5. More than 12 times (Almost every day)